

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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[Please add the following new claims 17-42:]

17. (New) An apparatus in a telecommunication system for providing access to telecommunication services to subscribers at user terminals, each of which being

separately connected to at least one access point via a net terminal including an xDSL compatible modem, and a communication network, wherein:

the at least one access point comprises a pool of xDSL compatible modems and xDSL filters forming a first group,

a second group of direct access xDSL compatible modems is provided separate from the first group,

the net terminal is provided with a second modem for initial installation of the connection, which is monitored and controlled by a controller until a connection is established,

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Cont a controller is adapted to control the first group of pooled xDSL compatible modems to transfer at least one connection between the user terminal and the access point from the first group of pooled xDSL compatible modems to the second group of xDSL compatible modems to make available a new pre-provisioned broadband access point.

18. (New) An apparatus in a telecommunication system according to claim 17, wherein the connection between the access point and the first group of xDSL compatible modems is made via a loop-back function so that the connection is not broken when transferring the connection from the first group to the second group of xDSL compatible modems.

19. (New) An apparatus in a telecommunication system according to claim 17, wherein the xDSL filters are configured in a split filter arrangement.

20. (New) An apparatus in a telecommunication system according to claim 17, wherein the controller is adapted to retrieve subscriber information to individualize the established connection.

21. (New) An apparatus in a telecommunication system according to claim 17, wherein the xDSL filters associated with the first group of xDSL modems are a pool of xDSL filters and are connected directly to the first access node.

22. (New) An apparatus in a telecommunication system according to claim 17, wherein the xDSL filters associated with the first group of xDSL modems are connected in front of at least one line card connector of a second access node.

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23. (New) An apparatus in a telecommunication system according to claim 17, wherein a management system is provided to process retrieved additional user information, whereby the established connection can be adapted according to user specifications.

24. (New) A method in a telecommunication system for providing access to telecommunication services to subscribers at user terminals, each of which being separately connected to at least one access point via a net terminal including an xDSL compatible modem, and a communication network, the at least one access point comprising xDSL compatible modems with filters, comprising:

transmitting a signal from an net terminal including a user terminal identity to a controller;

searching, by the controller, for an available connection path for the net terminal at an access point;

creating, by the controller, a bi-directional broadband data transmission path between the user terminal and the at least one access point using a second modem connection of the net terminal for initial installation of the broadband data transmission path;

activating, by the controller, the transmission path between the user terminal and the at least one access point; and

transferring, by the controller, at least one connection between the user terminal and the access point from a first group of pooled xDSL compatible modems with associated filters to a second group of xDSL compatible modems with direct access, whereby at least one new pre-provisioned broadband access point is made available.

25. (New) A method in a communication system according to claim 23, further comprising:

monitoring, by the controller, available access points in the first group of pooled xDSL compatible modems with associated filters; and

transferring subscriber connections from one access point in the communication system to another access point, whereby access points in the pool of modems are made available for new subscribers.

26. (New) Apparatus for use in a telecommunication system for providing access to an xDSL telecommunication service to subscribers, comprising:

plural subscriber user terminals;

plural net terminals, each user terminal being coupled to one of the net terminals,
and each net terminal including a net terminal xDSL modem;

a first access point including a pool of xDSL modems;

a group of direct access xDSL modems separate from the pool of xDSL modems;

a controller configured to establish a bi-directional broadband connection between
multiple user terminals to the first access point using xDSL modems from the pool of
xDSL modems, and sometime thereafter, to transfer one or more of the established
connections to one or more xDSL modems from the group of direct access xDSL
modems.

27. (New) The apparatus in claim 26, further comprising:

loop-back circuitry selectively coupled to one or more net terminals using patch
cords.

28. (New) The apparatus in claim 27, further comprising:

a metallic cross connect for coupling one or more of the established connections
via the loop-back circuitry to a corresponding xDSL modem in the xDSL modem pool.

29. (New) The apparatus in claim 26, further comprising:

a pool of xDSL filters, wherein the controller is configured to assign each
connection established with one of the pooled xDSL modems to one of a pool of xDSL
filters, the output of the assigned xDSL filter coupled to the input of the one xDSL
modem.

30. (New) An apparatus in a telecommunication system according to claims 29, wherein the pool of xDSL filters is located in the first access point.

31. (New) An apparatus in a telecommunication system according to claims 29, wherein the pool of xDSL filters and the direct access xDSL modems are located in a second access point coupled between the first access point and the controller.

32. (New) The apparatus in claim 26, wherein each net terminal further includes an in-band xDSL modem in addition to the net terminal xDSL modem.

33. (New) The apparatus in claim 32, wherein prior to establishment of the bi-directional broadband connection, the in-band modem in the net terminal associated with the one user terminal is configured to establish a preliminary connection with the controller to engage the controller to initialize one of the second xDSL modems from the pool for the bi-directional broadband connection.

34. (New) The apparatus in claim 32, wherein the in-band modem and the net terminal xDSL modem are configured to operate independently and in parallel in the net terminal.

35. (New) An apparatus in claim 32, wherein the controller is configured to retrieve subscriber information to individualize the established connection.

36. (New) A method for use in a telecommunication system for providing access to telecommunication services to subscribers at user terminals, each user terminal being coupled to one of plural net terminals, and each net terminal including a xDSL modem, comprising:

transmitting a user request signal from an net terminal including a user terminal identity;

in response to the user request, searching for an available connection path at the first access point;

creating a bi-directional broadband data transmission connection between the user terminal and the first access point using one of a pool of xDSL modems at the first access point;

activating the bi-directional broadband data transmission connection between the user terminal and the first access point;

transferring the bi-directional broadband data transmission connection from the one xDSL modem from the pool to another, direct access xDSL modem.

37. (New) The method in claim 36, wherein the transfer frees up the one xDSL modem from the pool for a bi-directional broadband data transmission connection for another user.

38. (New) The method in claim 36, further comprising:

using an in-band modem at the net terminal, separate from the xDSL modem at the net terminal, in initially installing the bi-directional broadband data transmission connection.

39. (New) The method in claim 36, wherein one of a pool of xDSL filters at the first access point filters a signal and provides the filtered signal to the one xDSL modem.

40. (New) The method in claim 36, further comprising using the method in claim 28 to establish multiple bi-directional broadband connections with multiple user terminals.

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41. (New) The method in claim 36, further comprising using the method in claim 28 to establish simultaneously multiple bi-directional broadband connections with multiple user terminals.

42. (New) The method in claim 36, wherein the direct access modem is located in a second access point.
